

This Old House

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11>

If you have type 2 diabetes

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Jerry uses what's inside him to reach his goals. For his art, he uses his passion. For his diabetes, he helps his body release its own insulin.

Ask your doctor about once-weekly, non-insulin Trulicity*.

- It helps activate your body to do what it's supposed to do—release its own insulin
- It can help improve A1C and blood sugar numbers
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- It comes in an easy-to-use pen! You don't need to see or handle a needle

*Trulicity is not a weight loss drug. In studies, people who took Trulicity lost 2-4 lbs on average.

For a study, 90% of people said it was easy to use.

ACTOR: FORTISSE

Indication and Limitations of Use

Trulicity is a once-weekly injectable prescription medicine to improve blood sugar (glucose) in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus. It should be used along with diet and exercise. Trulicity is not recommended as the first medication to treat diabetes. It has not been studied in people who have had inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis). Trulicity should not be used by people with a history of severe gastrointestinal (GI) disease, people with type 1 diabetes, or people with diabetic ketoacidosis. It is not a substitute for insulin. It has not been studied with long-acting insulin or in children under 18 years of age.

Important Safety Information

Tell your healthcare provider if you get a lump or swelling in your neck, have hoarseness, trouble swallowing, or shortness of breath while taking Trulicity. These may be symptoms of thyroid cancer. In studies with rats or mice, Trulicity and medicines that work like Trulicity caused thyroid tumors, including thyroid cancer. It is not known if Trulicity will cause thyroid tumors or a type of thyroid cancer called medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) in people. Do not take Trulicity if you or any of your family members have ever had MTC or if

you have Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2).

Do not take Trulicity if you have had an allergic reaction to dulaglutide or any of the other ingredients in Trulicity.

Trulicity may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Inflammation of your pancreas (pancreatitis).** If you have pain in your stomach area (belly) that is severe and will not go away, stop taking Trulicity and call your healthcare provider right away. The pain may happen with or without vomiting. It may be felt going from your abdomen through to your back.
- **Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).** If you are using another medicine that can cause low blood sugar (such as insulin or a sulfonylurea) while taking Trulicity, your risk for getting low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) may be higher. Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include dizziness, blurred vision, anxiety, irritability, mood changes, sweating, slurred speech, hunger, confusion or disorientation, shakiness, weakness, headache, fast heartbeat, or feeling jittery. Tell to your healthcare provider about low blood sugar and how to manage it.
- **Serious allergic reactions.** Stop taking Trulicity and get medical help right away if you have symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, such as itching, rash, or difficulty breathing.

- **Kidney problems (kidney failure).** In people who have kidney problems, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting may cause a loss of fluids (dehydration). This may cause kidney problems to get worse.
- **Severe stomach problems.** Trulicity may cause stomach problems, which could be severe.

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or have had problems with your pancreas, kidneys, or liver
- have severe problems with your stomach, such as slowed emptying of your stomach (gastroparesis) or problems with digesting food
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or if you become pregnant while taking Trulicity. It is not known if Trulicity will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if Trulicity passes into your breast milk. You should not use Trulicity while breastfeeding without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- are taking other medicines including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Trulicity may affect the way some medicines work and some medicines may affect the way Trulicity works.
- are taking other medicines to treat diabetes, including insulin or sulfonylureas.

The most common side effects with Trulicity may include: nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, decreased appetite and indigestion. Tell to your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of Trulicity. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see next page for additional information about Trulicity, including boxed Warning regarding possible thyroid tumors including thyroid cancer.

Please see Instructions for Use included with the pen.

See also 10-00000000.

Trulicity is available by prescription only.

Lilly

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trulicity
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Information for Patients about Thyroid (TRUJIFY)
This is a brief summary of important information about Thyroid (TRUJIFY) (levothyroxine sodium tablets). Please read the Medication Guide that comes with Thyroid before you start taking it, and each time you get a refill because there may be new information. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

What is Thyroid?

Thyroid is a once-a-weekly levothyroxine prescription medicine that may improve blood sugar (glucose) in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus, and should be used along with diet and exercise.

- It is not recommended as the first choice of medicine for treating diabetes.
- It is not known if it can be used in people who have had pancreatitis.
- It is not a substitute for insulin and is not for use in people with type 1 diabetes or people with diabetic ketoacidosis.
- It is not recommended for use in people with severe stomach or intestinal problems.
- It is not known if it can be used with long acting insulin or if it is safe and effective for use in children under 18 years of age.

What is the most important information I should know about Thyroid?

Thyroid may cause serious side effects including possible thyroid tumors, including cancer. Tell your healthcare provider if you get a lump or swelling in your neck, hoarseness, trouble swallowing, or shortness of breath. These may be symptoms of thyroid cancer or thyroiditis (inflammation of the thyroid gland). Thyroid may also cause thyroid cancer (thyroid tumors), including thyroid cancer. It is not known if TRUJIFY will cause thyroid tumors or if a type of thyroid cancer called medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) in people.

Who should not use Thyroid?

Do not use Thyroid if:

- you or any of your family have ever had a type of thyroid cancer called medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) or if you have an endocrine system condition called Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2).
- you are allergic to dextroamphetamine or any of the ingredients in Thyroid.

What are the possible side effects of Thyroid?

- Possible thyroid tumors, including cancer.** See "What is the most important information I should know about Thyroid?"
- Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis).** Stop using Thyroid and call your healthcare provider right away if you have severe pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that will not go away with or without vomiting. You may feel the pain from your abdomen to your back.
- Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).** Your risk for getting low blood sugar may be higher if you use Thyroid with another medicine that can cause low blood sugar such as sulfonylurea or insulin.

Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include: dizziness or lightheadedness, blurred vision, anxiety, irritability, or mood changes, sweating, slurred speech, hunger, confusion or drowsiness, shakiness, weakness, headache, bad heartbeat, feeling jittery.

- serious allergic reactions.** Stop using Thyroid and get medical help right away, if you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction including: itching, rash, or difficulty breathing.
- kidney problems (kidney failure).** In people who have kidney problems, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting may cause a loss of fluids (dehydration) which may cause kidney problems to get worse.
- severe stomach problems.** Other medicines like Thyroid may cause severe stomach problems. It is not known if Thyroid causes or worsens stomach problems.

The most common side effects of Thyroid may include: nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, decreased appetite, indigestion.

Talk to your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or does not go away. Tell your doctor all the side effects of Thyroid.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Thyroid (dextroamphetamine)

CG-CON-ES-21MAR2015

Before using Thyroid, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have had problems with your pancreas, kidneys, or liver.
- have severe problems with your stomach, such as slowed emptying of your stomach (gastroparesis) or problems digesting food.
- have any other medical conditions.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or if you become pregnant while taking Thyroid. It is not known if Thyroid will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to (breastfeed). It is not known if Thyroid passes into your breast milk. You should not use Thyroid while breastfeeding without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- are taking other medicines—including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Thyroid may affect the way some medicines work and some medicines may affect the way Thyroid works.
- are taking other medicines to treat your diabetes including insulin or sulfonylureas.

Before using Thyroid, talk to your healthcare provider about low blood sugar and how to manage it.

How should I use Thyroid?

- Read the Instructions for Use that comes with Thyroid.
- Use Thyroid exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to.
- Your healthcare provider should show you how to use Thyroid before you use it for the first time.
- Thyroid is injected under the skin (subcutaneously) of your stomach (abdomen), thigh, or upper arm. Do not inject Thyroid into a muscle (intramuscularly) or vein (intravenously).
- Use Thyroid 3 times each week on the same day each week at any time of the day.
- You may change the day of the week as long as your last dose was given 3 or more days before.
- If you miss a dose of Thyroid, take the missed dose as soon as possible if there are at least 3 days (72 hours) until your next scheduled dose. If there are less than 3 days remaining, skip the missed dose and take your next dose on the regularly scheduled day. Do not take 3 doses of Thyroid within 3 days of each other.
- Thyroid may be taken with or without food.
- Do not mix Thyroid and insulin together in the same injection.
- You may give an injection of Thyroid and insulin in the same body area (such as your stomach), but not right next to each other.
- Change (rotate) your injection site with each weekly injection. Do not use the same site for each injection.

Do not show your Thyroid pen, syringe, or needles with another person. You may give another person an injection as long as it is an injection into their skin.

Your dose of Thyroid and other diabetes medicines may need to change because of:

- change in level of physical activity or exercise, weight gain or loss, increased stress, illness, changes in diet, or because of other medicines you take.

For more information go to www.Thyroid.com or call 1-800-Thyroid (1-800-648-9976).

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Thyroid (dextroamphetamine)

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THE TOH TOP 100

outdoor



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On the cover



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THIS OLD HOUSE WITH
THIS OLD HOUSE NOVEMBER AND
DECEMBER 2015



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STYLE CHARMER



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SOLUTIONS

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PHOTO: THE OLD HOUSE WITH THIS OLD HOUSE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2015

life is
a meal
for
sharing
secrets,
and a drawer-in-
drawer with
some of its own



SENTINEL/ROCK
KITCHEN

\$1999*

*Based on a 15' x 15' kitchen

25

THE
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The grandfather of invention

I need to delete a little something here," Pop said. Confused, as my grandfather would be, I wondered what he meant as I watched him use a ballpoint to push a school bus onto his shop's garage. Not that each night was unusual. I'd sometimes see a ballpoint to lift a sofa to adjust a study window rather than climb up the stairs, turn a metal body Phileas refrigerator into a fish smoker, and cook an enormous lamb by sewing plastic into an oval with an early lawnmower. His heating dog, Marley, ate dinner out of a hubcap from a '55 Bel Air.

I loved my grandfather, but he was not exactly normal. A bit of a wild card, he started out overage in his station before moving on to a bus service, a pair of transportation companies, and a couple of construction outfits—which is why he had both the bus and the duster on hand. That he somehow ended up with more of it is totally beside the point. You see, he never embraced the executive suite or customer needs the way he should have, preferring to tinker in the shop, starting every day in Dickies workoveralls, finishing it smelling of Zeph and diesel.

With the bus, he cranked it to saddle 20 feet—along with its seats, roof, sides, floor, and chassis—and then held the remaining front and rear pieces together, dropped in the engine if it was missing and a shortened drive shaft, and added hydraulics for a snowplow. Turned out his usual plow track, a wet-surface Willys jeep—the kind with a dash-mounted choke, no doors, and facebeards that trotted away sometime shortly after V-day—had gone the way of Willys. Overland still, and he needed something to replace it. The truncated transporter was his genius idea.

That was Pop's problem, I suppose, inventing things he could have bought and not paying enough attention to things that mattered. A philosophy completely unlike that of the man and woman whose inventions are featured in our fifth annual TOH Top 100, which you'll find on page 73. From concrete you can sculpt like clay to wheelbarrows that affordably empty out air-quality hazards to a toilet that won't overflow when overfilled, our editors have spent months taking down the most useful new products for your home. Check them out. They'll also impact on my grandfather's dog bowl, his laundry rack, or fridge-a-smoker, but not a one belongs on his short bus.

Scott Oshroff
SCOTT OSHROFF, EDITOR
scott@spoonhouse.com

Letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE



The editor, descended from a line of old-so good new ones.

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Keep in touch!
Let me know what's on your mind and share your Q&A adventures on Twitter @scottosshroff using #TOH100

House

Season Standout

TDH TV gets countless emails asking about products the crew uses to get the job done.

Here's one you'll see this season.



When installing supporting (ally) columns at the Belmont project house, master contractor Tom Silva used **Sakrete's High Strength Concrete Mix** to create a secure and stable footing. Sakrete High Strength is a pre-blended mixture of sand, coarse aggregate, and cementitious materials, ideal for new construction or repairs where concrete thickness exceeds 2 inches. About \$4 per 80-lb. bag; to find a retailer near you, visit Sakrete.com.

Tune in to find out how this project turned out! New episodes airing now at thisoldhouse.com/watchTCH.

Reader mail



ONE GREAT IDEA leads to another. Or so you showed us: Readers sent in lots of nifty suggestions, additions, inspiration, and alternatives in response to stories in the August and September issues. (Find these articles at thisoldhouse.com/novdec2015.)

Low tech meets high tech

While my daughter and I were on a road trip, we took turns reading the September 2015 *This Old House*. Although we loved the idea of using a roll of kraft paper to make a "DIY To-Do List" (House Solutions), we all had the same thought: Who is going to bust that big piece of paper shopping? One of them came up with the idea: Snap a picture with your phone and head out the door. Now we can have that cute organizer on the wall and an easy-to-manage shopping list.

—LYNN WOOD, GREELEY, COLO.

mugs along the top edge, and hanging the chairs from one of my screened porches. I also protected them with waterproofing spray and beamed them using drywall weights to keep them in place in windy weather. They look a little classy!

—NANCY HARTSHORN, DYE, MARI.

Craftsman inspiration

Thank you for the story about [first-time homeowner] Brad Ryan "in awe of [her] kitchen" (September 2015). Funny, inspiring, and so encouraging. A great read!

—JENNIFER PARTON, BALDWIN, N.Y.

Drop-cloth drapes

[Re Home Solutions, "10 Uses for Canvas Drop Cloth," September 2015.] Here's one more use: I made drapes with 6-by-9-foot drop cloths by folding over 20 inches at the top, clipping the top

Coatrack idea

The August 2015 issue's Shopping column featured glass cabinet knobs. Absolutely brilliant! I plan to create a coatrack by screwing glass knobs onto a decorative panel of wood. My favorite

is the pewter-and-cobalt knob, perhaps alternated with pewter-finished ones. Thanks for the inspiration!

—MIR MALLSTROM, SAN FRANCISCO

Fed-up fountain owner

[Re "No About Garden Fountains," August 2015.] And finally, when you get sick of scrubbing off the green slime, shoveling out soggy leaves, and removing drowned birds, you can fill the whole thing with potting soil and some plants (below). Just a suggestion from a longtime reader.

—BOB RISK, DYE, MARI.



Native "hoofstrips"

Love the article on gardening in the "Inspire" between street and sidewalk (Landscaping, August 2015). My suggestion: Native plants—all perennials, both flowers and grasses—low-growing and suited to the weather you have, so they require less watering. They support lots of pollinators, birds, and butterflies. My garden is four years old, and I've labeled plant labels so that neighbors and dog walkers can identify them.

—KAREN WIDLOS, INDIANAPOLIS

HOW TO REACH US

E-mail: TDH_letters@thisoldhouse.com. Please include your full name, address, and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.

READER
LETTERS
MOVIE

Mantel bed

JAMARIE EVILDESIGN
TROTTON, N.C.

Love your magazine! Each issue yields creative ideas and inspiration. Here [near right] is our version of the mantel headboard from September 2015's Home Solutions.



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6 FAST FIXES

❑ Clean up candlesticks
Pop your covered candlesticks in the freezer for about an hour to help you easily scrape away any messy drips.

❑ Swap out old bulbs With longer nights, it's a good time to switch to energy-efficient LED light bulbs, which use up to 80 percent less electricity than incandescents.

❑ Change air filters It's the season for revving up the heat. Energy Star recommends checking your furnace filter every month during the winter and cleaning or replacing it as needed.

❑ Cook efficiently Using pots smaller than the size of your burner wastes energy—up to 40 percent if you use a 6-inch pot on a 6-inch burner. Choose an appropriate pot size to help cut down on utility costs.

❑ Silence noisy floors Walk talcum or baby powder between squeaky floorboards with a dry-brush brush.

❑ Clean out weep holes Weep holes—the small holes in window frames that allow moisture to escape—can often get clogged with dirt. Use a soft, small brush to clear the opening.

✓ Put up a live Christmas tree

For brights that go beyond the holidays, choose a live tree that you can plant directly in the ground. In colder climates, you'll need to plan ahead by digging a hole before the ground freezes. Since live trees should spend no more than 30 days indoors, buy one close to Christmas and water daily, before planting, move it to the garage for a day or two so it can acclimate to outdoor temps.



❑ Protect pets

Potted plants may be beautiful, but many of them can be harmful to pets if ingested. Anise, holly, azaleas, and poinsettias can lead to vomiting, irritation, erratic behavior, or even death. To keep pets out of reach, place things up on shelves or install hanging baskets for holiday displays. For a full list of dangerous plants, visit aspc.org.

TOH TIP

❑ Banish emerald ash borers

This insect infested tens of millions of ash trees on 25 states and in other forested lands, made around the country's forests.

To help keep out from migrating, make sure that any woody you purchase this season is locally grown and heat-treated. This monitor for ash borer for signs of the pest, such as white lesions and D-shaped exit holes in the bark. For more information, visit stopthebeetle.info



❑ Up your recycling game

During the holiday season, Americans generate 25 percent more trash than the rest of the year—all that wrapping paper adds up! Help reduce your own home's excess waste by making a few simple changes, such as avoiding gifts in old wallpaper or fabric and reusing shipping and packing materials. If you're gifting electronics, consider coupling them with batteries that can be recharged.



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home solutions

Edited by Michelle Branner

INSIDE | DIY DECOR | FURNITURE REPAIRS | EXPERT ADVICE | CLEANING HACKS | MORE

Snow people sans snow

You don't need a thick blanket of the fluffy stuff to make this charming pair—just a couple of **snow-white** **sawed posts** and some workshop odds and ends. Here, black knobs stand in for eyes and coal, small turned wood screws form the mouths, and a painted wood dowel makes a perfect carrot nose, when you cut one end at 45°. To make the hat brims, we traced the bottom of a large pot on an 8-in. and cut it out with a jigsaw. Stacked rounds cut from 2-in. cedar form the hats' crowns. Buttons are 1-in. dowels set in recesses made with a spindle bit. The finishing touch: bundling them up in ribbon scarves so they look as ready for the big chill as Frosty and company. But unlike that beloved snowman, these two won't melt when the mercury rises.

A hairline
saw-foot
makes the
perfect carrot
nose for our
snow lady.





A coat of stain (see inset) and a clear finish (see inset) highlights the natural grain of the wood.

Wood-block luminaries

Create a festive village scene with **house-shaped candle holders** made from 4x4 scraps. We cut 6-inch and 8-inch lengths with a miter saw set to a 45° angle and glued two blocks together to form each house. For a "chimney" base, we drilled straight into the mitered cut with a Forstner bit before angling the drill and boring the hole downward into the roof. A coat of stain and architectural details hand-drawn with a metallic paint pen add rustic charm. The finishing touch: LED candles that ensure the houses stay safely lit.

Fast furniture fixes from a pro

Nicks, scratches, loose legs—wood furniture often takes a beating. Here FCH contributing editor Amy Hughes, who restores vintage pieces at her design shop, Salvage Style, in Maplewood, New Jersey, shares a few after-the-fact secrets.

TO RESTORE WOOD'S LUSTER The No. 1 tool in her fix-it arsenal is a natural polish called Ford's Blue by Howard. Says Hughes, "Often all it takes is a couple of coats of this brewer, rings of oil, and a washable wax formula to bring dull, dried-out wood back to life."

TO ERASE WATER RINGS A combination of undiluted white vinegar, white flour, and elbow grease removes white water rings from the surface of most clear-coated wood.

furniture, Hughes works the wax into the finish with a soft cloth. Even pushes hard to eliminate the air pocket that has developed between the finish and the wood.

TO FIX MINOR SCRATCHES, NICKS AND FADING Hughes taps to fix these blemishes is a pen called water seal-in Pen-A-Finish by Howard. Just rub it in with a lint-free rag or a sponge. (OOO)ated wood for a more aggressive treatment. It dries quickly and comes in nine shades to match or complement furniture finish.

TO REATTACH BROKEN FEET To secure wood chairs, veneer that has lifted, or loose dowl joints, Hughes uses a water-based wood glue, like Titebond. When a piece requires a precision fit, I put the glue in a syringe.



Inject it right where it's needed and seal it with clamps.

Shop owner Amy Hughes, among a few of her restored treasures.

TO BANISH MUSTY SMELLS Hughes' favorite drawer and cabinet liner is Nature's Air Sponge, which condenses soap-laced oil with activated charcoal. Just place the open tubs inside for a week or until smells are neutralized.

Holiday-lighting know-how

For a spectacular display that's merry and bright—and doesn't blow a fuse—follow these five tips from lighting pros. —SALVADORA



The right holiday lighting can be downright magical—with the flick of a switch, you can transform your home's exterior into a twinkling winter wonderland. To make sure your displays are as safe as they are bright, read on.

1 Measure before you shop. Calculate how many linear feet of string you need by measuring around windows and doors and along the roofline—remember you're running lights!

Once you've talked the linear feet, check the lighting's packaging for the length. Determine the distance between the outdoor socket and where the run of lights starts, and use an appropriate length of outdoor-rated extension cord to avoid having lights go straight to the socket.

2 Choose the right bulb. If you like the look of warm white lights with a slight yellow cast, incandescent bulbs are your best bet, especially for smaller jobs, like lighting a wreath or a garland. They're generally less expensive than LEDs, but they have a shorter life span and consume 60 percent more energy. For bigger jobs, go with more efficient LEDs. They're available in wide range of styles, from minimalist and colorful retro-style C7s to larger globes.

The quality of the light varies with LEDs, so look for wording such as "soft white" or "classic white" on the packaging to avoid bulbs with a cool blue undertone.

3 Consider spacing. The distance between individual lights is all over the map. Take a tape measure with you to determine the spacing between lights, and buy sets that come with less than 12 inches between bulbs.

Typically larger bulbs, like chunky C7s or C9s for the roof look best when the lights are between 6 and 10 inches apart. Smaller lights or mini-bulbs look pedestrian, light it to avoid having to wrap a mailbox post or a column multiple times.

4 Don't forget the trees. For outdoors, go with this rule of thumb: 100 lights per every vertical foot of tree. And opt for larger bulbs that won't get lost when viewed from the street. For deciduous trees, mini work fine, and you can make quick work of wreaths with a set of lights. But if the tree is less than 4 feet in circumference, stick with string lights. For shrubs, use mini lights with 20 to 50 lights per set in a green cord—they'll blend in much better than colored lights. Tuck them into shrubs in a random pattern, keeping the strings 4 to 6 inches apart. And wrapping ball strings around bushes with black electrical tape saves you from having to buy black-out caps.

5 Power up—carefully. LEDs are often spaced closer together than incandescents, and you can string more of them end to end. But that means, if it goes good, it can also go bad. To avoid overloading, distribute to 10 strings of 50 lights for one plug. With LEDs, you can go up to nearly 50 strings, and with 75 lights. Don't assume all lights are designed for outdoor use.

Wrap all connections between strings with electrical tape to keep moisture out. Always plug lights into a covered outlet protected with a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)—running cords from inside the house through a window or a door slot is a fire hazard.



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Tabletop Tannenbaum

Here is a truly **evergreen centerpiece**. This modern take on a festive fir won't wilt, doesn't need watering, and can be stored flat, then hauled out season after season. For this 24-inch-high tree, we cut two sheets of luan into full-size triangles. Using sawsaw, we made slots 12 inches long from the top of one triangle and the bottom of the other. This allows the two tree pieces to interlock. We used 3/4-inch and 2-inch Forstner bits to make holes for the ornaments, then drilled key holes for threading their wires. A coat of lively green paint and small glass beads provide the trimmings. Now that's what we call a perfect spruce-up for the table.



Photo: iStockphoto.com/Chris Jones

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Need-to-know numbers: the dining room

Chances are your dining room sees more action this season than any other time of the year. With family and friends gathered around the table, you'll want to make sure your space remains up. Here, expert advice from Richmond, Virginia-based interior designer Susan Jamerson. Just don't call it if you need to loosen your belt. —PATTI HALL

Choose the right-size light fixture

Amount of proportion: fishers are three off an
unbroken. As a rule, add the length and width
of the room in feet to the ideal diameter of
the fixture. matches. Six 20-by-25 foot rooms calls
for a 45 inch fixture. Next, the fixture should be
proportionate to the dining table. Make sure
your table is at least 1 foot wider than
the base on all sides.



36"
Clearance needed
behind chairs from the
punched exposures. (Make
sure rugs also extend
back 36 inches, to avoid
slipping on the chair legs.)

How to measure for a medallion

To calculate the ideal diameter of a mechanical rancher, divide the square footage of the room by 7. For a 10 by 10 foot room, say, divide 100 by 7. The resulting number, 14, is the appropriate mechanical diameter, in inches.

$$\frac{\text{SQUARE FOOTAGE}}{4} = T = \frac{\text{DIAMETER OF CEILING MEDULLITY}}{4}$$

Bath-cleaning shortcuts

Holidays often mean a full house—and more foot traffic in your bathrooms. Give your lavatories a luster with these clever uses for household staples.

— 400/240 50/50/50/50



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WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE **MR.**

A hideaway crafts station for \$212

A spare closet gets a fun and functional makeover with the addition of a sliding door and a clever fold-down table.



BEFORE The homeowner had removed the closet's wire shelving and pulled doors, but the space still had no real purpose—except as a closet for clutter.

AFTER The new space allows for spreading out craft projects while working on them. Then hiding matter like away.

WITHOUT THE RIGHT SETUP, even small projects—like wrapping presents—can take over a room. That's why Karina Greenleaf, of Seattle, needed a workstation with storage for her sewing and craft projects. She had already converted

a spare bedroom into a home office, so the underused cedar clothes closet seemed like the perfect spot. First, she primed and painted the interior. Then she mounted a caddy storage unit on its side across the bottom of the closet and used hinges to attach a tabletop to the unit. When the table is flipped down, it extends into the room, supported by a removable dowel. When not in use, it swings up flat against the wall to reveal a chalkboard. Old cabinet shelves supported by brackets provide storage overhead. Inspired by a barn-door interior online, Karina built a frame out of pine and inserted a cotton shower curtain as a fabric panel inside. The hooks screwed into the top of the door allow it to slide along galvanized-pipe track, and casters on the bottom make opening and closing easy. But that new door doesn't use a lot of space, says Karina, "It's such a cute space, why close the door on it?" —KATELHALL



THE PROJECT TALLY

Primed the cedar planking and painted a bright white using leftover paint... **\$12**

Attached a prebld MDF tabletop to an old storage unit with new hinges and hardware... **\$26**

Painted the underside of the tabletop with chalkboard paint; the tied on hand... **\$0**

Hang shelves salvaged from old kitchen cabinets with new brackets... **\$12**

Built a sliding barn-style door using pine 2x2s, galvanized pipe, casters, and a cotton shower curtain... **\$76**

Added storage boxes and baskets to control project materials and craft supplies... **\$64**

TOTAL \$212



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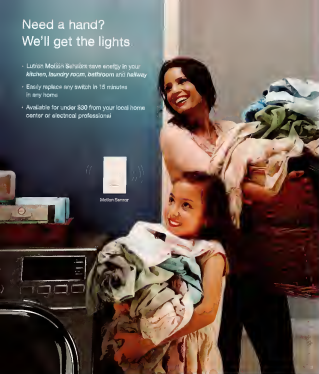


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One big, happy cook space

Annexing the dining room gives this mom of two teenagers an open kitchen where the whole gang can gather

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA EVANS • PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUND



AS ANY HOME COOK will tell you, the best meals start from scratch—and often the best kitchens do, too. So when end cook Jacqui Guter Kelly bought an early-1900s Tudor in Westchester County, New York, she knew the cramped kitchen would need an overhaul. Together with architect Ross Young, she ceded up retooling the whole first floor, expanding the cook space into the roomy dining room and absorbing the pretty into a new family room. The result: a big open-plan kitchen that's now the official hangout for her and her two teenage

daughters, as well as their friends. "We spend 85 percent of our time in here," says Jacqui. That's partly because the custom-fit the space to their needs, with lots of drawer storage, a peninsula that doubles as a dinner table on weeknights, and a stainless steel worktable island that she bought as a temporary fix, then fell in love with. "Unlike the marble counters, it's undrinkable, which is a boon with kids," she says. And so is her pro-style range. "It gets cooked up to 500° every Friday for pizza night, and friends come over. The more people in this kitchen, the better!"



BEFORE The dated cook space was cut up, with the fridge in a separate hallway's pantry. **AFTER** Homeowner Jacqui Guter Kelly at work in front of the new kitchen's L-shaped bank of black cabinets topped with white subway tile. Photo: David



The fridge wall's gray cabinets incorporate lead glass skylights that the owners brought years ago all around their city, plus a magnetic chalkboard for notes.

before

The old kitchen was cramped, with a separate pantry that held the fridge.



after

Expanding the kitchen into the former dining room and reworking the basement entry allowed for one big, open space.

1. Created a peninsula with seating, which serves as the dinner table on weeknights.
2. Skipped on a gas style range saved by buying an all gas model.
3. Put in a sink for hand washing away from the food-prep zone.
4. Built in the fridge, adding a magnetic chalkboard on the side.
5. Placed a 7-foot stainless steel work island in the center, which doubles as a serving buffet.
6. Added hutch linens and built-in wine racks for entertaining.



The new design will be a planning for an update to the kitchen as well as the rest of the house. "It also serves as a focal point," she says. "I need expensive tile above the stove," says Jessica Ringer, Truist.

Highlight: yellow door backs are a nice surprise in the gray cabinets. Wood face doors hold clinking dishes, one for each family member, so laptops, tablets, and phones are "out of sight, out of mind" at bedtime.



homeowner tip
JANIS GATTOLO, 47
WESTCHESTER
COUNTY, NY

"Shop for sinks and faucets in person at high-end plumbing stores, then scour eBay for the same exact ones. I saved hundreds that way."

The pretty octagonal prep sink was a splurge (over a farmhouse sink) and acts as a hand-washing station for the kids. See: Pinterest.



Glass shelf inserts allow light to brighten the island's contents of the black china cabinet, which holds the homeowner's wedding collection. The dish is lined with wrapping paper in the perfect shade of short rose green.

TWO COLOR KITCHENS
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5. Offer a welcome basket packed with fluffy towels, scented lotions, and more of cozy soaps for overnight guests to step into when exiting the bath.
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Tom Silva
TOH general contractor

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Vintage revival

Original details in a Victorian-era bath inspire a retro refresher

BY MEGAN BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ZACH DEBART

NOT EVERY BATH is due for a total overhaul—sometimes, all that's needed is a few simple changes. That's what Chuck Jepson found as the guest bathroom of his 1887 Queen Anne, in Stamford, Connecticut, where several "updates" added over the years—like the 1950s wall-mount sink and the bright-blue paint on the cast-iron tub—dragged down an otherwise well-preserved space. So rather than start from scratch, he opted to add a much-needed shower and makeover circa 1900 with a lot of concrete fixes to brighten the room without dulling the period feel.

Since the existing 125-year-old subway and herringbone tiles were in better shape than a dirty scrub, Chuck kept it all intact. He moved the toilet to make room for a spacious shower floor with new subway tiles that match the originals, and swapped the wall-mount sink for an antique-style pedestal model salvaged from another bath in the house. And, of course, the room got new paint throughout on the walls, the trim, and even the tub. "I love that I was able to preserve so many of the original features," says Chuck. "And the new pieces look right at home with all the old ones."



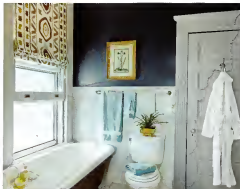
BEFORE Although some vintage elements remained, later upgrades—like a wall-mount sink and a bright-painted tub—created a dated look.

AFTER A sleekly polished sink complements the house's period finishes, including original herringbone floors and subway-tile walls.



BEFORE

before + after: bath



Covering the antique tub a vinyl cabinet-painted exterior with a coat of neutral gray renders the vintage look of the room. Most of the original subway tiles were intact, so rather than replace them, Chuck sought out matching pieces for patch jobs. Paint: Benjamin Moore's Colonial White (wall) and Oxford Gray (door and ceiling). Rubie took Delta.

MORE EASY IMPROVEMENTS
Find select small ideas for refueling your bath at thisoldhouse.com/NovDec2005

after

Moving the toilet made space for a glass-enclosed shower, which sits across from a newly installed vintage pedestal sink.

before

Without a shower the bath lacked function—and dated features dogged it down.



1. Added period-style sconces and a peeling mirror, plus a small glass shelf for toiletries.
2. Popled the old wall mount sink with a pedestal model.
3. Carved out a shower in a niche where the toilet had been.



4. Kept the original tub where it was and gave it a new coat of paint.
5. Removed plastering through an interior wall in order to relocate the toilet and to the tub.
6. Moved in a repurposed dresser to provide more storage space.



The frameless glass shower practically disappears into the room. A built-in tub and the shower door add to the overall look in the rest of the bath without trying to be present itself.



homeowner tip
CHUCK JONES, 57-year-old owner
"Using gray paint on the door and ceiling helps the white tile look brighter."

The glass-enclosed showerhead is in-bathing with the new Verano-style fixtures and provides the perfect look. Showerhead Delta.



Its polished nickel finish, curved spout, and lever handles help the transitional Delta set the bath's elegant look. Verano® Delta



An antique-style pedestal sink offers enough deck space for a couple of essentials. The glass shelf above adds a peek-a-boo for other oft-used necessities. Framed glass sconces and peeling mirror complete the period look. Sconces, mirror shelf and soap dish: Hudson Hardware.

Smartened up

An energetic paint scheme and streamlined wire management make for a high-functioning home office

BY MARY KELLY SELOVER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY HELEN NORMAN



HOME OFFICES, like their occupants, thrive on order. When Colleen and Randy Collier moved into their 1967 Federal-style brick home, in Culpeper, Virginia, they were pleased it had a ready-made home office. The space's built-in shelving, abundant natural light, and handsome wainscoting would serve Randy, a self-employed systems engineer and a captain in the Navy Reserve, well. But its lackluster decor and mess of wires called out for attention.

Working with designer Rachel Bauer and carpenter Tim Bowers, Colleen first devised

a plan to tuck the wiring out of sight. Bowers drilled a small hole in the side of the built-in to feed the Internet cable into, then added holes in two concealed shelves to thread the room/modem and power wires through. A banker's desk with deep drawers, fitted with a power strip that plugs into a floor outlet, anchors the work area. Teal paint and light-blue wallpaper make the room snap to attention while keeping it serene. "My only problem now is getting our three sons out of there when Randy's home," Colleen says. "After school, they want to hang there, too!"



BEFORE Tangles of wires and dark walls hindered productivity
AFTER Concealed cables, a desk with built-in power strip, and a blue-and-teal color scheme tidy—and brighten—the space
PHOTO: JESSICA MOORE / CLOUTIER



HOME OFFICE HOW TO'S
For all the business built up fully outfitted workspace, go to: DREAMHOMES.COM/HOWTO2285

Tailored valances hide blinds that reduce computer screen glare. The walling's red and blues and browns pull together the colors of the furniture, wallpaper and paint. Wallpaper: Thibaut; Rug: Surya

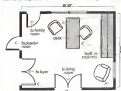
Classically inspired dentil molding and Greek key frieze the schemes pay tribute to the home's Federal style. Fabric and Iron: Fabocal



The Internet cable disappears into a hole drilled into the side of the cabinet, where it connects to a wireless router behind doors. Also hidden the outlet for the concealed printer. An armchair and keeping a window here meeting day and night.

after

Built-ins and a partial desk curve out the workspace in a 308-square-foot office with multiple doorways



3. Choose a small guest chair that is easy to move when the laptop is the focus of the office to do homework

4. Shopped a leather writing desk for a storage (stacked banker's) around its spot adjacent to windows and in front of built-ins offers lots of light and access to cabinets

1. Expanding openings, including French doors that channel light while blocking noise

2. Placed an armchair in a corner with a window to create a reading alcove

Warm winter entry

Add a festive, seasonal touch with soft paint hues, real greenery, and a perch with purlins. BY KATH HYUN D'SHNE-EVANS • PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUND

AMID ALL THE frazzled-dazzle of the holidays, it can be nice to come home to a house that's as serene as a woodland glade—on the inside, anyway. Take this porch, which is decked with all the countermeasures of the season, from a simple magnolia-leaf wreath casually tied with a golden bow to a fire-flowing garland of greens. Sage shrub railing, deep-blue beadwork overhead, and a runner door wrap the space in softness. A well-lit bench, a simple striped doormat, and a pair of bright-wings mark boots keep the scene down-to-earth. Here are some ideas for boosting the same honey feel to your place.

calm colors

Subdued paint shades drawn from nature make for a harmonious backdrop that lets porch decorations shine. Champagne Green (paling), Dove Blue (paling), and Audubon Rust (darker) Benjamin Moore are for ideas.



silver-dollar garland

A real magnolia-leaf garland is festive without being holiday-specific—and adults, guests, it with a lovely, undulating scent. 10-foot wrap, \$232, florists.com.



boxwood topiaries
These preserved ones set stop yellow stems bring the feeling of a well-tended garden right to the front door. \$120, paintedpots.com.

French flower basket

Shabby chic is this version of the classic shape—we play up its floppy base with some real orange flowers. \$100, www-on-craft.com.



storage bench

The homeowners found hers at a yard sale; we like this solid cedar one, and would stain it a warmy red to let the beauty of the wood shine through. \$175, weyfair.com.

DIY

magnolia-leaf wreath

The best way to make a wreath is to use the magnolia leaves for a long-lasting door cover. We bought two hanging branches in a basket, made a wreath in under 10 minutes. If the leaves and branches are green, the wreath will last. When it's done, a magnolia-leaf wreath is a lovely touch. Just \$20 (for leaves) and \$15 (for branches), or a local flower market. **A**



get this look for less



wall hang basket

This handmade one would hold the mail or celebrate the season with a delivery of evergreen boughs. \$20, www.on-craft.com.



colorful boots

Butler's boots have a lot to do with the holiday spirit. In orange, they'll brighten the drab days. \$30, www.k-d.com.

earthy textiles

For this winter, we like thick, fabric-covered and white-striped polypropylene that cushions the outdoor space. \$100, [www-on-craft.com](http://www.on-craft.com). **A**



Stencil an accent wall

A bold pattern on just one wall can anchor focal-point furniture

BY DEBORAH LUDWIG • PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAUREY W. GLENN AND ROBBIE CAPORETTO



With a bold design, 'underfoot' your room rather than avoid it.

A LOT OF PEOPLE LOVE the way wallpaper can warm up a bedroom but balk at the thought of installing it. So giving this space a boost, owner/designer Paige Semblon Schell and Jean Kay Perch decided to use a stencil instead, and to balance the lively pattern by leaving three walls white. "We weren't too keen to redo color and pattern, but without overhauling the room," Schell says. Her design, which plays off the bed linen, is a loose takeoff on the quilted—a rose-like design whose popularity spread from Oriental cups and Gothic jewelry to contemporary art (fittingly, Schell named her Rosemary Bench, Plushie, and Treacy lacern). The designers envisioned the color scheme with

orange-red and cream white going. This neutral, warm-toned, pickled-pine ceiling, and a rustic bench add an earthy counterpoint, while the slightly ragged edges of the loops and lines reinforce the handcrafted nature of decorative painting.

To produce the stencil—a quarterball about 21 inches wide wraps a marble—Schell turned to Chad Martin, a designer near Birmingham, Alabama, who cut it out of Mylar (available by special order, \$35, chadmartin.com). "Working on this project clearly helped convert Martin to the decorative-painting cause. 'I've taken down old wallpaper, and it's a pain,' he says. "With a stencil, if you get tired of it later on you can just paste over it." ■



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The case for moody neutrals

Deep, rich, mercurial colors flatter whatever is set in front of them, says interior designer Barbara Westbrook details in her new book

BY KATHERINE KILLER

THE TRANSFORMER
That's how Atlanta interior designer Barbara Westbrook refers to color and paint. "There's no easier or more affordable way to change a space or create a mood," she points out in her new tome, *Gracious Rooms*. The proof is in the pictures. Olive greens, café au lait taupe, bark-like brown-grays, dark chocolate—she wraps rooms in rich nature-inspired shades for an effect both relaxing and elegant. And as often as not, the same color covers walls, ceilings, painting, and built-ins. "Painting trimwork in contrasting color tends to chop up a room," she explains. "Covering it all in the same color lends a space some drama." Here, a few questions that these velvety shades all share.

1. they're soothing

"I find rich, warm neutrals colors comforting," says Westbrook. While she normally keeps a bathroom pale or white, she says the one shown here, in a 1920s stone house, "called for something different." A quietly luxurious shade of taupe filled the tub. Covering the walls and all the woodwork in the space, the color is an invitation to relax. *(Paint: Pratt & Lambert's Putty)*



Gracious Rooms (Bantam 2023) by Barbara Westbrook is available at independent bookstores and www.barbarawestbrook.com.



BARBARA WESTBROOK



2. they can be dramatic:
Westbrook likes to go deep and dark in the dining room, as it's most often used at night. "I want you to feel embraced when you walk in," she says. The gray leaves shade on these walls is one of her favorites. To balance it, she lightened up the chairs, carpet, shades, and artwork. *(Paint: Pratt & Lambert's Ancho)*

pro advice BARBARA WESTBROOK, WESTBROOK INTERIORS, ATLANTA

"People, furniture, flowers, and artwork all look great against these colors. They create a lovely backdrop for whatever else is going on."

3. they add warmth

A kitchen refectory has a lot of hard surfaces—in this case, a talismanic steel railing and 1400 marble countertops and backsplashes. A true warm grip on the cabinets—and on the crown molding lining the room—helps soften those elements while unifying the space and complementing the wood floor, door, and accessories. *(Paint: Benjamin Moore's Galveston Gray)*



PHOTOS: CRYSTAL LANE INTERIORS; LEFT: BARBARA WESTBROOK; RIGHT: CRYSTAL LANE INTERIORS; TABLE: JOHN DEERHARDT

Updating a bland ranch

One relic of the postwar building boom gets a handsome new cottage look, thanks to an eye-catching gable, an arched portico, and stone accents.

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA EVANS • ILLUSTRATION BY DRIVINGGATE INC.



BEFORE



A gable cut into the existing roof helps to give up the house's long, horizontal facade.

"PLEASE HELP US redesign the exterior!" says Cheryll Kolberg of this once modern, now dated 1994 ranch, in Athens, Ohio, which she shares with her husband, Stephen Ross, and their two kids. To give the facade some much-needed curb appeal, we turned to Cincinnati architect Matthew Evans.

"This house is flat, and the stretched garage that almost matches its size isn't doing it any favors," Evans says, noting the fix was likely a later addition. The first thing he'd do: install two separate garage doors to break it up. Adding a gable over the entry would also help rebalance the long facade. "For \$5,000 or less, it would add so much aesthetically," Evans says. An arch-topped portico and stone cladding on the porch posts, chimney, and garage help ground the house and give it dimension. New double-hung add some needed light. Says Cheryll, "These changes really give it a warm, welcoming look." ■

finishing touches

Upgrade a cottage-style entrance with a mix of classic accents and updated finds.



entry set

A traditional black knob door handle is forged brass with an oil rubbed bronze finish and handsets. Hardware dealer House of Antiques Hardware: \$395



window box

Over the eye where you want it with flowers? Black window box. This sturdy fiberglass version weathers all storms. Hooks and Lullaby: \$120



wall sconce

The horizontal lines of this modern black-and-glass air-milb sconce feature extra fine lines of the house. Lamp: Plus: \$200

door

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How to build a kids' bookcase

Use oak stair treads and pine boards to create right-size shelves that keep books and toys within easy reach of small hands

BY TAL YAGUZA • PHOTOGRAPHS BY KOLIN SMITH

GET IT?

TIM Two days
DIFFICULTY Easy Squaring
the shelves to the shelves
is the only tricky part.



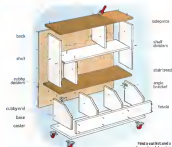
THE BEST WAY TO ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDSTERS to take out and return their own books and toys? Make a creative case that speaks to them at their own level. We scaled ours to the highest shelf at about 24 inches above the floor—perfect for the average 3-year-old, yet useful enough to keep up with her needs as she grows. Wide, deep shelves accommodate a range of books or craft supplies, low-draw cubbies conceal toys, and the whole thing rolls on wheels to make rearranging the furniture easier. Follow along as *The Old House* senior architect of color Mark Powers uses basic home-center parts to make a custom storage solution that will inspire kids to tidy up. Maybe.

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DAY-TO-DAY TIMELINE

SATURDAY Build the cabinet
and cubbies (Steps 1–3)

SUNDAY Join the two halves and
paint the back (Steps 4–5)



Finished dimensions:
36" W x 24" D x 28 1/2" H

Find a cut list and a
detailed build drawing
at thisoldhouse.com/wooden2015

TOOLS

- tape measure
- pencil
- square
- bar clamps
- straightedge
- router with a 1/4-inch straight bit
- combination square
- drill/driver
- roller squares
- sander

MATERIALS

- 3x12 pine board Get three 6 footers
- 3x4 pine board Get one 3 footer
- 2x4 pine edge glued panel Get one 4 footer
- 1-1/2" 124-inch oak stair treads Special order here at 36 inches long
- 2x4 luan panel
- 1/4-inch white wood screws Get a box
- 1/4-inch pine wood screws Get a box
- wood glue
- primer and paint
- construction adhesive
- 2 1/2" 4-inch angle brackets Get two
- painter's tape
- 3-inch polyurethane locking casters Get four
- 1/4 by 1-inch carriage bolts lock washers and nuts Get 36
- wood filler



1 Prep the parts

A) Size the parts. Use a circular saw to rip and cut the pine boards to final dimensions according to the cut list at thisoldhouse.com/wooden2015

B) Router the edges. The sides of the cabinet are grooved along the rear edges to accept the backer. To cut the rabbet, fit a trim router with a 1/4-inch straight-routing bit and adjust it with 1/4-inch extension below the base. Clamp workpiece to the work surface and set router's depth so that the router cuts only one-sided, chipper-chisel. Starting at the cabinet, push the router forward along the right side of the straightedge so that the bit follows, spacing bit bites into the wood. Router cubby ends, too.

2 Build the upper cabinet

A) Mark the trreads. Use a combination square to mark lines 1 inch in from each end of the stair treads, on both faces, to indicate where to screw them to the sides of the bookcase. Drill two pilot holes on the line, each one an inch or so from the long edges of the board. Insert one long through-the-hole fastener of the top board and the hidden face of the bottom one. Stain the treads, grain and paint the base parts, then let everything dry.

B) Attach the sides. Stand the top board on edge with its buttresses up and slip on a piece of finishing, kneecap. Add a bead of construction adhesive to the end grain of a sidepiece. Then bring that sidepiece perpendicular to the tread and cut a strip of 1-in. square to fit it from the end of the tread. Now screw through the pilot holes in the tread and into the top edge of the sidepiece with 2½-inch trim-head screws. Repeat on the other side. Attach the bottom board, screwing up through it and into the bottom edges of the sidepieces.

C) Add the shelf and dividers. Slip the center shelf between the sides, use the shelf dividers to set its position at pin-point. Then screw through the sidepiece and into the edge of the shelf with the trim-head screws, as shown. Repeat the divider at the other end and screw it in place. Now position the shelf dividers with their front edges flush with that of the center shelf, then screw through the shelf and into the dividers. To attach the divider's opposite ends, drill pilot holes through the treads and secure the dividers with the trim-head screws using a rafter square to keep them perpendicular to the treads. Set the upper cabinet aside.

TIP To make squaring the cubby dividers easier, screw the fascia to the ends first to prevent racking.



3 Make the cubbies

A) Add the ends. Rest the base for the cubbies on the work surface. Position the cabinet end with its front edge flush with that of the base. Screw through the end and into the edge of the base, as shown, with the trim-head screws. Attach the opposite cubby end. Now split the base into thirds, marking the locations of the two dividers, and attach them by screwing through the underside of the base.

B) Square the cubbies. Position the brace against the front edges of the cubby ends and dividers, drive trim-head screws through it and into the end edges, over the divider edges. Use a rafter square, as shown, to square up each divider before screwing it in place.

4 Join cabinet to cubbies

A) Attach the brackets. Center an angle bracket on the inside face of one cubby end and hold it flush with the piece's top edge. Fasten it with ½-inch pan-head screws, as shown, then repeat on the other end.

B) Mate the upper cabinet. Center the upper cabinet on the base so the lower board has a ½-inch overhang on each end, using your 1-in. square to check. Move the upper cabinet forward so the rear of the tread is flush with the cabinet edge you made. Reach through the back of the cubbies and drive pan-head screws through the bracket and into the underside of the lower board, as shown—no pilot holes required. Repeat on the other side.



5 Add the finishing touches

A) Paint the back. Measure the opening of the back, then cut the paper to fit. Use painter's tape to temporarily hold the back in place between the cabinet edges. Use a pencil to outline the rectangles that get the accent color, as shown. Paint the accent color, paint the rest of the back white, then let everything dry.

B) Attach the back. Tip the cabinet on its face and drop the painted back in place. Drive pan-head screws into each corner and then several between them, along all four edges.

C) Add the casters. Hold the caster in position on a corner and mark the mounting holes. Drill ¼-inch diameter holes through the underside of the base. Attach the caster with carriage bolts, lock washers, and nuts, using a wrench, as shown. Repeat the process for the remaining casters, then turn the bookcase right side up. Add wood filler to screw holes and give the bookcase a final coat of paint. ■

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**House
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Our first built-from-the-ground-up **Idea House** puts a fresh spin on a classic American house style. A **storybook cottage** with a steeply pitched roof, it combines historical architectural details with **modern amenities**. An open floor plan, a **flexible layout**, and a wraparound porch maximize space indoors and out for a home that's **functional, adaptable**, and full of appeal. To take a tour, turn the page.

The house is a tapered gambrel roof, stone-clad foundation walls, and heavy brackets are classic Craftsman touches. The painted metal roof updates the traditional form, as does the vibrant paint color (Olympic's Dream Perennial).

BY LINDA SHERBERT • PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN

does this small house live large? The wide-open ground floor embraces living, dining, and kitchen areas. It also hosts one of two master suites, to allow for a family's changing needs or to welcome guests. Upstairs, the main master suite, a third bedroom, and a hall both lead to a top-story sleeping loft tucked beneath the rafters. Clever storage and seating built-ins throughout tap every extra sliver of space. One reason we chose to build our Idea House at Cloudland Station, a *Southern Living* Inspired Community in Chickamauga, Georgia (see sidebar, page 61), is the obvious craftsmanship of the homes, which are based on traditional turn-of-the-century designs. We believe this cottage offers inspiration and accessible ideas that you can apply to your own home, whether you're making modest upgrades, embarking on a major remodel, or building from scratch.



open-plan living

5. Come on in! His spouse waited once entryway in the family room, where shiplap paneling and decorative red-cedar beams set the rustic cottage tone. Atlanta interior designer Yvonne McFadden chose tailored seating and coffee table on casters that glides over a supersize ottoman to free up floor space.

2. The dining area's handcrafted trestle table bridges living and kitchen spaces. Nearby, French doors lead to the side section of the wraparound porch.

3. The raised hearth's flagstone slab offers extra seating, as do benches built on either side that also serve as window sills. Window seats are painted charcoal to disappear, outline the view just outside in focus.

4. McFadden refinished the kitchen with blue cabinets and designed a pendant with glass globes found at an antique warehouse. Marble lines the counters, shipwrecks the range hood. Reclaimed chestnut—with 1D coats of food-safe butcher-block oil—tops the island.



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"Be generous with space in the areas where family, visiting kids, and friends gather. Make the hearth count. Open up the downstairs floor with living, dining, and kitchen areas that connect as one."

—JOHN TATUM
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flexible
spaces

5. The first-floor master bedroom suits guests—or homeowners who prefer to avoid stairs. Three over-the-door windows face the front porch, while small casements over the bed allow a cross breeze.

6. **Seize cabinets.** Some floor-to-ceiling keep the compact laundry room tidy. A counter for folding spans the washer and dryer. The desk can serve as a ham-washing and towel-laundering station or a place for potted plants.

7. A thoughtful mix of exhibits, drawings, and books organizes inhabitants of all ages and sizes. The built-in bench, open below, handles lost shed shoes.



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Built-in solutions

Try these tricks for putting every square foot of a house to good use.

- **STORAGE** Choose cabinets and shelves instead of furniture in tight spaces. Even shallow units such as these mudroom cabinets, can store a lot.

► **ALCOVES AND NICHS** Flarebutt ins all the way up to the ceiling or install in a corner to take advantage of otherwise overlooked space. The top cabinet in the laundry room holds bulk items.

► **STRUCTURAL DIVIDERS:** Use built-ins to mask—or play up—structural features. In the second-floor master bath (see page 58), a shelf and a mirror installed between partition walls create a grooming area.

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TOH IDEA HOUSE 2015

tucked-in areas

14. The loft offers a kids' play space at one end, twin beds at the other. The roof structure allows 7 feet 2 inches of clearance at its highest point. Egress windows are located when kids are present. Clothes reside in cabinets built into the crawl space.

15. The top floor is accessed via a ladder-step stairway of reclaimed barn wood. To accommodate the steep pitch of the staircase, the steps are 6 inches deep. A sliding barn door in the hall both eliminates a space-hogging door swing.

16. In the play area, foot-deep built-in shelves fit into the space between the first sets of rafters. A wood bench supplements the cushion seating.

"Don't overlook the nooks and crannies. A lot can be done when they are a focus. They tend to create the inner charm and warmth of a cottage."

—JOHN TATUM, DEVELOPER, CLOUDLANDS/STATION



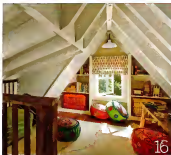
Compact systems

Maximize function while conserving space with these technological advancements.

► **HOME SECURITY** (A) SimpliSafe's security system operates from a wireless keypad, a smartphone, or a key-chain remote. The 11-inch tilt-luxe controls up to 40 sensors.

► **HYDRA** (B) Low-profile flexible ducts for Unico's high-velocity forced-air system are less than one-third the size of typical models.

► **TANKLESS WATER HEATER** (C) The 5-gallon Star-valve tankless water heater can be wall-mounted in a closet and uses up to 40 percent less energy than a standard tank.



BY JENNIFER L. LITTON
HOME BATHING
DYNAMIC

VIEW FROM
KITCHEN LOOKING
UP AT THE LOFT.
THE BENCH AND
SHelves ARE
BUILT INTO THE
RAFTERS. (B) UNICO
HYDRA



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and more

TOH IDEA HOUSE 2015

outdoor rooms

17. The porch, a generous 33 feet deep on two sides, accommodates multiple seating areas to extend living space. Molded-den-chase furniture, including a pair of all-weather wicker sofas, to suit family life as well as entertaining. The curved-bar built cedar coffee table top holds cocktails or cards with ease. Pendant lights allow conversation into the evening. The green custom front door brightens the shaded area.

18. Landscape designer Kate Karam added a small garden in the space around the front end back porch. A faux-bamboo bench, with a matching end-table planter, offers a quiet rest spot. A giant Japanese maple shares the plot with Little Lane hydrangeas and Japanese painted ferns.

19. Sheltered by 30-by-62-foot pergola, a carious grill and smoker sit on the perimeter of the patio where that smoke drifts away from clients.



MORE IDEAS!
Tour all the
rooms—indoor
and outdoor—of the
TOH 2015 Idea
House. Go to
houzz.com/idea-house-2015
for additional photos

floor plans

The 3,968-square-foot house gains effective space from a 30-foot-deep porch that accesses family and dining rooms on the open plus first floor. En suite master bedrooms on the first and second floors, plus master upstairs bedroom and a top-floor loft, sleep up to eight.



scale
1"=4'-0"

BUY THE PLANS To order complete house plans for the TOH 2015 Idea House, go to southernlivinghouseplans.com and enter Plan Number 3573

About Cloudland Station

The TOH 2015 Idea House is located in Cloudland Station, a 450-acre development of intricately inspired houses in Cheek County, Georgia, about 2 hours northwest of Atlanta. The community offers a village-like setting with recreational facilities for residents, including a swimming hole, a bocce house, and, for special events, a farm house and a rustic barn. For more information, go to cloudlandstation.com

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classifiedstories.com

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By Deborah Baldwin
Photographs by John Gruen
Produced by Tisha Leung
Styling by Ingrid Leese

The house's gentle
update featured new
bedroom built-ins and
modern molding, vintage
kitchenware, mixed
floorboards, and a
neutral palette to add to
the original. Plus:
James A. Davis's Porcupine
and the Whimsy





If your idea of purgatory

is spending *Saturday morning* wiring at 2,317 point chops—alongside your equally baffled partner—you may find it hard to believe that some couples actually enjoy this sort of thing. They may even be good at it.

"We'd meet on-site and lay out our ideas, and we were, of course, talking about it all the time," says Rafe Churchhill, referring to the notably painless, eye-to-eye reds process of the Shureco, Cavanaugh, farmhouse that he and his wife, interior designer Heidi Henscheid, now call home. "We have been together almost 20 years and almost always have been aligned in our aesthetic preferences."

Weathering rains of their previous homes has, if anything, cemented those bonds. "We did a fair together in Brooklyn and two lakeside cottages, and we designed and built a house nearby when we first moved here," says Rafe, adding off four life-consuming projects as if they'd been no harder than what was waiting a couple of floors up.

It helps that one half of the team was born into a family that knows its way around a handyperson. Rafe, a third-generation master builder turned architectural designer (heater Salk runs Churchill Building Company, an nearby Salisbury), stepped easily into the role of GC and space planner, leaving Heidi to focus on paint and textiles. "Though he does like to weigh in on colors—wall or lighting and finished," she says placidly.

The couple found their dream floor upper a few years ago, when their kids were ages 4 and 7. Situated on a rise insulated in back by a snow-laden tract, the 1929 center-hall Colonial Revival was empty and priced to sell. They liked the very things that had drawn other parents: bayside views, from the galley kitchen and randomly added side porches to the axenic plaster walls and firework spaces. Old houses like this have



TOP LEFT: The 1929 farmhouse sits just above the road, so the primary entrance and outdoor living space are out back. **ABOVE:** The owners resolved the kitchen's spirits with shaggy-knot custom cabinets painted in a warm, neutral, a worktable island, and a built-in grey panel. **RIGHT:** Open-concept shingles tie up superior handy work. **Far left:** Rafe Churchhill



floor plans

The three-story house, about 2,900 square feet including the new back porch, shed two side porches in favor of a mudroom and a sunroom. A full bath on the first floor became a powder room and a pantry. The opening between the kitchen and the dining room was widened about 4 feet to improve traffic flow; pocket doors between the den and the living room were added to preserve a light flow while blocking out the sound of the TV. On the second floor, five bedrooms and a shared bath became two bedrooms, a new full bath, and a master suite. The finished attic, not shown, holds a playroom and a guest room.



"settled into the landscape," Rafe says approvingly.

Years of working in this neck of Connecticut, known for its rolling hills and above-average household incomes, had also deepened his appreciation of the covered imperfections that signal authentic period style. "As soon as you change ceiling heights and make the windows line up perfectly, that's when you lose verisimilitude," Rafe says of those who don't know when it's best to leave things alone. "It's the oddities in the composition of the windows and the details that are the most convincing."

Thank it as the difference between a Calves Kins short hot off the runway and a Brooks Brothers coffee that's topped around the collar. "A lot of people talk about a nice, simple farmhouse, but very few people ever end up with that," Rafe says. "Part of the reason is they fall into a formulaic approach in the kitchen and bedrooms, with lots of tile and cabinetry and a built-in refrigerator, and the next thing you know, the farmhouse you fall in love with isn't recognizable."

Though eager to make the house more family-functional, the couple also wanted to preserve its style. They didn't even consider one of those kitchens that's so big, it leaves no place to bake, instead, they would preserve cooking spaces and, backing around, gather for meals in that thing called the dining room.

The refrigerator would be allowed to be a refrigerator, standing close against its own wall. The mudroom might host a newspaper, but it would still be a place where you lock off your boots after feeding the chickens, washing



RIGHT: The snug new mudroom has built-in views framed by blue-gray windows, edge-bed seating, a sturdy brick floor and a clipped cabinet on an antique chair. (Paint: Farrow & Ball's Downy Dove [antique])

SNUG THIS STYLE
To find furnishings similar to those used in this house, go to myfarrow.com/blackthorn



the flower beds, and gathering firewood. "You have to ask yourself, 'What do you really need?'" says Heidi. "Our approach was, 'How little can we do?'"

A better way to put it might be, "How little can we do that you would actually notice?" Because the house really did need work. Pipes, wiring, and appliances would have to be replaced and sanitation added, along with a new boiler and radiators, and central air on the first floor. With five small bedrooms and a single bath, the second floor would need some rearranging. And new finishes were called for throughout. Photos taken before and during the renovation show a business-casual-between exterior with a missing portico column, a fireplace in need of repainting, and floors, doors, stairs, and trim afflicted by a depressing fume-melting stain.

The trick was to protect the accuracy of raising rooms while paying attention to the scale and style of new elements, like living room built-in and kitchen cabinets. On top of staying true to the house, this approach took care of a problem the couple had had at their Brooklyn loft—a space so vast, open, and sound-conducting, Heidi confesses, it left them cold.



ABOVE: Kate Churnell and Heidi Hendricks, with Rufus, 8, and Holly, 10, gather in the screened addition. **TOP:** Engraving handlings in the widened dining room set the stage for family meals. **RIGHT:** Traffic flows through to the center hall and stairs. (Paint: Farrow & Ball's Hay (purroom walls and trim))



Rather than bust open the first floor, they opted to simply widen the passageway between the kitchen and the dining room, keeping the built-in (for laptops and TV) and that little living room library (for reading and napping). And handle off the plaster, though it meant sacrificing central air on the second floor and blowing in cellulose behind walls to avoid having to open them up for spray foam.

Still, "you want to be able to see the kids in the TV room while you're by the fire in the library," says Heidi, citing a vision of family harmony achieved by touting big pocket doors with divided light between the two rooms. "At first, we closed them so we wouldn't have to hear Shrek," says Rufus. "Now the kids close the doors because they don't want to hear PBS."

The hardest part to get just right was the kitchen, says Heidi, who does most of the cooking. She wanted plenty of storage and pro-style appliances. Kate wanted "to keep it simple," as he put it. They decided on basic cabinets only and a pantry with open shelves. A handsome wood table takes the place of the customary runwayside island—can-breakfast bar.



LEFT: The master bath's pedestal tub is set off by deep-yellow walls.

RIGHT: Pale neutrals, rich jewel tones, and a mix of textures warm up the master bedroom.

BELOW: Lucky girl Hallie has an arched canopy bed complete with a bold pattern and neutral wall. *Paint: Farrow & Ball's Gorse Yellow; draperies: Beth Wolff/Lord Light; Overmaster bedroom wall: wallpaper: Marci Woodcock; girl's bedroom: Farrow & Ball's Portland; Farrow & Ball's Portland; Farrow & Ball's Portland.*



Shuffling the layout upstairs yielded separate bedrooms for Hallie, now 12, and Rufus, 9, a new full bath, and a master suite fashioned from the remaining three rooms. Two stink bedrooms became a playroom and a guest room. Though it no longer has a dirt floor, the basement is still just a basement, while a wide porch added in back allows the family to drink in views of the protected landscape extends beyond their two-acre parcel. Rufe designed a fence that cradles the family's whetstone terrace, Dany, and built (here "hallie")—a studio for Heidi, a coop for the chickens and firewood, and a garden shed—which joined an existing red-washed barn.

Inside, the feeling is sunny and open even if the plan is not, thanks partly to the corner staircase that draws the couple to the house as the first place. Heidi layered new and vintage finds—"I've not succeeded in design that will be dated in 10 years," she says—and added to the coziness with comfortable seating, incandescent lighting, and heavy linen curtains. A sophisticated palette of drab couple's signature high-contrast trim and window colors help keep the place from feeling quaint.

It has become a showrooms of sorts, where potential clients can drop by to appreciate what Rufe calls "historically-influenced" design. Some visitors have to guess which parts of the house date to 1929 and which to today—and that's just how the couple like it. "If you lightly touch an ancient structure," Rufe likes to say, "it will last another 100 years." ■

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PBS.



This Old
House
TOP 100

BEST NEW HOME
PRODUCTS
2015

You want your home to be just right. But where to start when it comes to finding ways to feather the perfect nest? Here would be a good place. Whether you're plunging into a remodel (see Building Products, page 84) or working out the last of the decorative details (see Finishing Touches, page 86), we've done the legwork for you—vetting countless new offerings for every aspect of the house in seven categories. **Turn the page** to see the result, a list that should keep you happily occupied until at least this time next year. »

kitchen



The black
typical
stamped
the left of
abstract
drawing.

61. 5-Minute Pizza Oven & Snack Maker
19.99 (was \$29.99) • **2000**

Intercept pro style pizza ovens. This hot little number runs for \$257 and encloses your dinner in stone or glazed chamber that radiates heat from above and below to brown and blister in no time. Just don't try to make toast. \$150. hls.cdnside.com

42. Astoria Soap Hand Dishwasher 10.99 each

Strong silent types are what we expect from this make to never before at such a price. This one pairs a touch more noticeably than its peer siblings (40 decibels vs. 38), but it is still so subtle that it features a small red light to indicate when it's on.

800icouch-boss.com

**30L Self-Sharpening
Cutlery Set with SharpIN**

Technology 10 **Calculation**
Ceramic shims snap built into the upper slots of this wood storage block automatically hone straight-edge knives at the correct angle each time they're put away. Sharp idea \$190 for the 22-piece set; calculation.com



04. Masterpiece Collection Member

Here's what's behind the off-set. Why? So that its aluminum coated blades cut through grasses without creating a tunnel which forms a narrow pulverization zone while allowing larger bits to float to sea. Turns or less slush in seconds. **2245**

OS, Mouse Trap Kit 10 per

lucky escape this morning, it is a lethal unit of serrated jaws, poised with a sensitive double spring to come down on a deep-seated "bullseye" at the slightest fury-fueled disturbance. A better mouse is indeed feasible if you'd like **\$200, the biggest free one**

Kitchen Faucet: 20 Zaner
8,300" swivelout takes the

dual-spray-head with full and needle patterns, lets you reach every corner you want to reach. Everbrite® is a solid stainless steel—no lead, no corrosion—at half the price of typical pro-style models. \$349. thinks.com

OT: Prehygienic ZI Sink Surface 19 Schock

The high-end molecular making of this harder, three-granite surface renders it scratchproof, heat-resistant, and closed off to stains. And its nonporous finish that prevents tooth from settling in also gives germs no place to grow, returns it to antibacterial. **\$85 for a 30-sec.** retack.com



08. Tatum. Joseph. New
The ability to conform to how
you are the same as the

edre, full waste separation is what caught our eye. A large topsection plus a bottom drawer that can be divided in two makes sorting recyclable trash a cinch. JN44@earthlink.net (shown). JosephJoseph.com

Not only is the aluminum nonstick, but if you chill it in f

tree as it also keeps the tree from swelling into the dough which makes for a better crust. Like engraved graduated measuring spoons help you get just the size crust you want. How cool is that?
\$40. kneadhome.com

Like no other unused
wedge. This console draws

utilizes undercabinet space—in under the base cabinet to stack Mithrasware. Perfect for ungaily cookie sheets. And nudge it with your toe to activate the push-to-open mechanism. **From \$5.95; damsandashboards.com**

11. Cold Brew Coffee Maker **20,000**

It's clean
It's smooth
It's great

incentive.



bath



15. Magnetix Showerhead
15.15mm

Hold this sprayer up to its red-orange dock and marvel as it snaps right into place. Especially satisfying for someone with limited mobility. Though anyone can appreciate not having to fumble for the cord. From fittness.com

16. Sennheiser Speaker Fan 33
Web world thought of the first, slating Bluetooth speakers in the housing of the toilet fan. Keeps the vanity counter clear of electric noise and keeps you propping— even when the shower quit! (see running like said as in toilet).
333333.com

III. Combat Trench

Now the first one shows you how to use the new drain with an existing floor drain. A sleek alternative to the typical center-hole arrangement. Order it to slip with your existing drain. Drop it into a hole of the same size. And once that's done, you can tie it in to the

38. Chevron Marble Bath Collection  **Chevron®**
This classic pattern has never looked classier. Handmade from gray and white marble, the eight-piece bath features the classic front-to-back design.

holder to a new release of *Flow*.
 (3) *Flow* will be available on DVD.

149. Paleontar Varsity Top with Integral Sink
10-Minute Trailer
Among the many reasons to love an Integrated Sink in the Bath—Scientific construction, easy installation, quick

25. Aspe Bucket Sink
By Jovanette
 At 12 inches deep, this bucket

gleamed steel wire from a
collapsing machine. The wheel itself

21. Recycled Toilet with

20 Delta
like a toilet/touchless toilets, but this model leverages the technology even further. A sensor in the bowl detects when the water has risen to a critical level and blocks additional inflows, preventing overflows. It's downright ingenious!

[illegible]

home tech



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS AND THE COMPANIES

44. BCC 100 Construction Camera 10 Amazon

Keep tabs on the progress at the basement (reveler) at the biggest Lego tower ever with this ingenious camera. It combines IPG photos taken at an interval you set with a time-lapse video and stores it on an SD card. Play it back at the speed you want. BCC.amazon.com

45. Air-Quality Monitor 10 Amazon

Real-time air quality quality of the air you breathe. But the sensors in the weather box can't monitor VOCs, CO, dust, humidity, and temperature every 5 to 10 seconds. Check immediately anytime from your smartphone. The app also tracks air quality history and recommends corrective actions, such as adding houseplants when CO levels become elevated. JPM.gettag.com

46. Roost Smart Battery 10 Amazon

Now this is our kind of upgrade: a Wi-Fi replacement battery that turns any existing 3-volt smoke detector or CO detector into a smart home device. It'll plug your phone if it's running low or a detector is triggered. Smaller still. You can silence false alarms from your phone. JPM.gettag.com

47. USB Charger 10 Amazon

Remove an ugly power-plug nuisance. It will fit into a USB port on the wall that holds your phone without a power block. Its contacts accept power from the terminals without getting in the way of the receptacles. S26.computer.com

48. Smart Registers 10 Amazon

By controlling and clearing automatically (three-recoil registers) achieve the holy Grail of forced-air comfort: room-by-room control without installing the system. A wireless sensor for each zone monitors temperature, humidity, and occupancy and sends data to a central unit. JPM.gettag.com

49. Smart Registers 10 Amazon

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50. Roost 2-in-1 Stick Vacuum 10 Amazon

The rightness of corner grime is over. This combi stick vac and handheld overhauls some of the suckiest side parts that draw up dirt from the baseboards as well as the floorboards. S26.computer.com

51. Interior Pure Air 10 Amazon

Here's the first air purifier to go after benzene, with a filter that converts the carcinogenic molecules into larger, harmless ones that get stuck in its pores. That's on top of a HEPA filter for fine dust, bacteria, and pollen and a carbon filter that takes care of smoke, odors, and VOCs. Air quality sensors automatically adjust the flow. JPM.gettag.com

52. Almost 4-Wi-Fi Router 10 Amazon

Every electronic device should be so easy to set up. Unbox it, connect it, tap a few screen prompts, and you're surfplugged. To justify the price, it doubles as a smart home hub. S26.computer.com

53. Boost LED Bulb 10 Amazon

Eliminate dark spaces and Wi-Fi dimming zones along with saving with the only dimmable LED equipped with wireless remote. S26.computer.com

54. Model Water Heater 10 Amazon

This compact and warm water heater gives you the best of a submerged array of graphite plates that precisely modulate water temperature to meet demand—in a very, very, very hot. Store the rooftop tank under a bathtub for nearly

55. Ocean Ceiling Fan 10 Amazon

A fan that is meant to be installed in the ceiling. It's a fan that is meant to be installed in the ceiling. It's a fan that is meant to be installed in the ceiling. S26.computer.com

56. Serenity Series Air Conditioner 10 Amazon

Cooling comfort on a much grander scale. It introduces another dimension—namely, the quiet. It's a fan that is meant to be installed in the ceiling. S26.computer.com

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66. Serenity Series Air Conditioner 10 Amazon

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67. Almost 4-Wi-Fi Router 10 Amazon

Every electronic device should be so easy to set up. Unbox it, connect it, tap a few screen prompts, and you're surfplugged. To justify the price, it doubles as a smart home hub. S26.computer.com

outdoor

58. Skag Del 33 Chain Saw

All-weather polyethylene is shock-proof and bonded to tough vinyl backing, making for a rug that's both comfy and durable. The 24-inch rounds are a perfect doormat size—and they come in five colors, so you can game up Twitter in snapshots, too. \$59 each; chillwith.com

59. Deluxe Digital Electric Smoker 33 Char-broil

Not a pet smoker? This uses a timer and one electronically controlled heating element to make barbecue good enough to stand alone for well past the right amount of smoky flavor. Set it and forget it. \$199; charbroil.com

60. 56-Volt Max Lithium-Ion 39-Inch Lawn Mower 30 Piece

It's impressive that a battery-powered mower can cut nearly a quarter-acre charge, but it's the design details here that really won us over. Gilder wheels cut front lawn on a dime, the one-touch folding handle turns up front spines, and the cordless power port makes post-mow cleaning a breeze in a snap. \$500; max.com

61. 16-Inch, 56-Volt Lithium-Ion Brushless Cordless Chain Saw 30-Knots

If you think this is merely a fancy pruner, think again. Thanks to a brushless motor and a 56-volt lithium-ion battery, this outdoor saw takes a 2-inch diameter tree without flinching. \$199; echoonline.com

62. Outdoor Storage 33-Tree

We're thrilled to see custom oak built into the deck. Made from weather-proof PVC in five tropical-tropical-inspired colors, they can be built for storage or with a cooler on top. \$1,499 for 36-inch base cabinet with slide-out weatherbox (shown); tree.com

63. Terrence's All-Weather Monoglyph Bolt & Kill 30 Universal Pest Solutions

Spray this sugary bait head with encapsulated garlic oil on plants your yard smells like. Local populations usually disappear in 21 days. Safe for use around people, pets, and food. And it won't harm bees or butterflies. \$12; bait.com

64. 2.2-Gallon Fire Can 30-Survive

First of all, the residue at the bottom, so you don't have to tip



the can (or twice). Second, just don't blow until you press the trigger. Third, you can use the saw without spilling oil. \$27; echoonline.com

65. Self-Watering Planter 30-WaterCafe

Put it at the end of your garden hose and let this one do the watering. It holds up to 2½ quarts of water in a pot that lets you control how much water plants can absorb. Close it for plants that like moist soil or open it for desert varieties. \$27; watercafe.com

66. Smart Irrigation Controller 30-Smart

Unlike other smart controllers that adjust watering and weather protection, this one has a built-in rain sensor. It also has moisture sensors. Sink the sensors into your lawn and they'll signal the system to stop watering when your Kentucky bluegrass is soaking wet. From \$200; smartirrigation.com

67. Tensored Vinyl Lawn Roller 30-Jordan

Acquire mid-century look pros build thanks to 2½-inch vinyl and metal rollers for both the powder-coated aluminum frame and the vinyl's legs. Keep it looking like an off-the-shelf piece. \$250; jordan.com

68. Dual-Stage Snowblower with Quiet Engine 30-Orion

How useful is a snowblower? It's a lot more useful if it's on a winter holiday when you need to clear the driveway. Not every 200cc dual-stage machine has the power, but it's modified to work better than most. About 55 percent of the time it's a push with out using the drive. \$499; orion.com

69. Dual-Stage Poly-Lawn Roller with 30-Inch Roller 30-Jordan

Two rows of stainless-steel rollers, built to last. We love the understated style for rolling up light spots between stripes. \$250; jordan.com

70. Garage Doors 30-Well

A combination of three polycarbonate panels that make the frame of oak, walnut, or mahogany makes these new-line wood-look doors look like anything but fake. Finally, the look of a real wood door without the maintenance or budget-busting cost. From \$1,400; well.com

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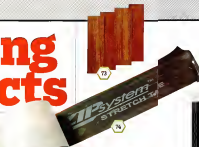
A 30-inch roller with two rows of stainless-steel rollers built to last.

building products

72. Oil-Bond 30 Latex Agent
Eliminate the tedious prep work of sanding and priming with this latex additive. Wipe it onto clean and degloss, mount into your latex paint, and bonds to the surface with a no-peel finish. **\$15 per quart.** latexpaint.com

73. Red Diamond Wall-to-Wall Hardwood Shingles
It's a wall-to-wall hardwood shingle. A dense, wavy wood-skin composite that's used for landscape poles, a substitute of the art rail takes laps from directly milled forests and runs through rolling and boiling shingles with a Class-A fire rating and an astounding 30-year warranty. **\$400 per square.** reddiamondshingles.com

74. Zip System Stretch Tape 30 Window Glazed Window
Finally, a sticky finishing membrane that can be repositioned if it adheres to itself. Oh, and it stretches—great for bending around inside exhaust vents and the like. **\$115 for a 75-foot roll.** zipsystemstretchtape.com



75. Flexible Italian Porcelain Tile 30 Trazzi
Plasma glass-fused porcelain can be 20 inches long by 12 inches wide and 1/4 inch thick. It's the only tile you can lay there without a heat or mortar. The light-spacing tool reveals the wood look. **\$7.50 per square foot.** buildirect.com

76. Q-Max Pro Concrete Mix 30 Quikrete
For those times when you're rather not under a truckload of cement, now you can get high performance concrete in a bag. Rebarbing gives it a crack-resistant, compressive strength, protects rebar and mesh from rust, and adds fire resistance. **\$30 per bag.** quikrete.com

77. Next Generation Ultimate Double-Hung Window 30 Window
Here's how to make it look like a window that's been in the house since the 1920s. It's a window that looks like a window that's been in the house since the 1920s. It's a window that looks like a window that's been in the house since the 1920s. **\$115 per window.** nextgenwindow.com

78. Gerda Construction Adhesive 30 Gerda-Glue
Fast-drying, waterproof, and UV-resistant adhesive that's used for everything from tile to stone. It's a fast-drying, waterproof, and UV-resistant adhesive that's used for everything from tile to stone. **\$1.50 per tube.** gerda-glue.com

79. Sketch-Fix Dry-Crystalline Coating 30 Sealed-Weather
Go ahead, water, and seal it well—no long wait before this unique two-

part epoxy coating. It's clear, high-gloss, and keeps water out so debris left by dry-cleaning machines won't be the only thing you'll see through. **\$32 for a 1/2 covering 30 square feet.** sketchfix.com

80. Hardwood Flooring 30 Revere Flooring
Ever wonder why the hardwood floors in the 1920s always look like they're made of wood? Because most of it is flooring that's made of a natural wood veneer impregnated with acrylic, making it 100 percent harder than natural wood flooring and extremely abrasion-resistant to boot. Now homeowners can buy it, too. **\$8.50 per square foot.** revere.com

81. Shape-Crete 30 Sealed-Weather
Forget the life. Here's a concrete that looks like a window that's been in the house since the 1920s. It's a window that looks like a window that's been in the house since the 1920s. **\$115 per window.** shapecrete.com

82. Quad Max Sealant 30 Seal
Sealing paint requires a flexible caulk, and no one ever saw one more flexible than this paintable sealant, which stretches up to five times its original length. **\$10 per tube.** quadmax.com

83. House Hydrant 30 Aguard Water Stopper
Instead of an abrasive rag, this sleek freeze-proofing aid seals the siding to get water out and keep it dry.

blue connector a ridge. It's quarter turn clockwise, remove it to let the air flow. **\$30.** aguardwaterstopper.com

84. Eco-Deck Wood Decking 30 Green World Lumber
Greenie mahogany decking? We couldn't believe it either. Someone at Eco-Deck thought the 1920s to plant Swietenia macrophylla, a tree that's today an invasive species from the Caribbean. Lumber from the sustainably managed plantation is now making its way here in the form of deck boards—prized for their durability and rich hue. **\$6.40 per board foot.** greenworldlumber.com

85. Fold-Up Window 30 Heartwood
When a window that doesn't block in or out when it's open. When it's shut, it looks like a double-hung, but the hinges and hinges are fold down to each other. **\$1,000.** heartwood.com



86

reader remodel

“We spent two years on an air mattress”



Husband-and-wife remodeling newbies learn to tackle everything from roofing to foundation walls while **renovating their first home**, a forgotten Italianate

By Karl Gelles, homeowner | Photographs by Helen Norman | Styling by Susan Victoria



< Living room

Several layers of paint off one of the home's five existing fireplaces revealed a detailed woodmantel and overmantel. The original walling contained shavings from the mill, so Amy and Karl Gelles (opposite) installed brickwork over the wall and a matching border at the top before hand-stenciling above the wall and ceiling. (That how-to appeared in the July 2012 reader-created issue, see the full project at brookhouse.com/reader2012.)

One spring day, soon

after we'd moved in, I was standing on a ladder on the front porch, struggling to pry off an old piece of molding. Finally, it broke in my hand, mostly shattering. Undeterred, I continued sawing, and suddenly a stream of dirt, dust, and rotting wood began to pour out of the ceiling. I looked over and saw my visiting mother-in-law, eyes wide, with a look on her face like, "What have they just bought?"

Her concern was understandable. My wife, Amy, and I hadn't planned to do any of the work ourselves. When we found the house, an 1879 Italianate in Bedford, Virginia, we were still living about 36 hours away, in Washington, D.C., and although we loved the place for its size and character, a job seemed like too big a project for us to do ourselves. You could hardly make it to the front door through the overgrowth of foliage, which reached all the way to the second story. Inside, the foundation was sinking in places, some of the floors were gone, and everything was covered in brown paint. But each time we scheduled someone to work, we'd arrive there warning and they'd never show. After a while, we figured we'd just do it on our own.

Of course, we were total novices. Both of our dad's work in construction, but neither of us really got to learn anything from them. At my dad's work area, I spent most of the time swinging a broom, not a hammer. Amy had never even painted a nail. And before this

Foyer

Karl and Amy were able to preserve the charm and the original Italianate detail post, as well as the plaster. They altered the walls with guarding and wallpaper scored on the cheap from the home center and added stenciling throughout. Even the fifth wall got special treatment, with delicate gold stencils on the tray ceiling.



BEFORE



Facade

The original siding is still in place, but the old front door was too far gone to save. A three-panel, six-paneled door fit the water-tube design opening and suits the style.



Parlor

Karl installed all the trim and plaster molding in the walls to echo details on the original fireplace, rising up as old plaster for a more faithful, uniform look. The fireplace itself remained intact, but the iron was purchased new. The couple bought all the furniture second-hand, or Craigslist and eBay, and repainted much of it themselves.



BEFORE

house, we were renters. We were young, and maybe a little stupid, but excited to have a home of our own.

After we closed on the house, that June, we started an brick outdoor stall, fixa replacing the gutters, installing new shingles, and pruning all that foliage. We did the master bathroom, too, because Amy said we couldn't live there unless there was a finished bathroom. In January, we finally moved in—and that's when we found out there was no insulation. So we slept on an air mattress and huddled by a woodstove to stay warm. It was like camping—but for two years.

For the most part, we tackled the house project by project—insulation, drywall, lighting—all done after watching videos online or asking our dad for tips. We shopped as we went, too, so that we could take advantage of sales and coupons, keeping anything we found in empty rooms until it was needed. It was slow, tedious work, but in the end, after those two long years, we were glad to have put all the extra time and effort into the vintage-style details.

Even though we weren't sure, once we finished, that we would want to put this much work into a home ever again, we've since followed our dream of upscale living and moved to another older home, in central North Carolina. It's no longer just the two of us under the new roof—we now have a 2-year-old daughter and will be welcoming twins this December. So, while most DIY renovators sit at a computer or in a store, one thing's for sure: There'll be no more sleeping on an mattress. ■

“We were young, and maybe a little stupid, but excited to have a home of our own.”



BEFORE



Dining room

An original plate rail replaced the walls, which were painted a contrasting dark blue. The table is replaced, painted the same white as the plate rail and door surround and baseboard, becoming a single, serene focal point for the space.



Master bedroom

To get the biggest three-piece working suite, Karl and Amy renovated the entire bedroom from the opening, described the brick surround and built-in. A garland applied added to the three-piece bedroom the tone under the mantle shelf. Crown molding, lost over the years, was replaced, and new headboards were added throughout. A delicate, vintage-inspired chandelier replaces the study ceiling fan to complete the lighter over all reach of the room.

Kitchen

The kitchen got a complete redo, but the couple managed to stick to their tight \$15,000 budget by buying floor models and collecting period pieces, such as white ceramic subway tile and brass cabinet and box cabinet cabinets. They personalized the look with beaded glass inserts, aged brass knobs, and carved corbels. Another money-saving trick: As an afterthought, a single piece of glass for the counter top. They opted for 32 by 12-inch granite tiles that they installed with dark grout. The effect is the same, at a fraction of the cost.



BEFORE

Master bath

The master bathroom was the first room to be finished, before the couple moved in. Among the highlights is a new, soaking tub with a built-in, built off the floor ceiling, and hardwood waterproofing that protects the main. The slipper-style claw-foot tub is new, though the existing bathroom floor is original.



TABLET BONUS
To see more photos of the house—with a review about how they managed to get it done—visit houzz.com/tablet



DOWNTON ABBEY

Gifts for Every Lord and Lady



shop PBS

See the complete Downton Abbey collection at shopPBS.org/gifts

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Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

INSIDE
PLUGGED TUB/BROKEN FLOOR HEAT
/COLD BRICK/TREE-TRUNK HOLES/MORE

Q What's the best saw for cutting down a Christmas tree?

—KEITH HALL, ROCKY HILL, N.Y.

A We like metal bow saws. They're lightweight and make fast cuts through wet, sticky wood. Be sure to make long, smooth strokes, using as many of the blade's teeth as you can. And don't press too hard. The more pressure you apply, the likelier it is that the kerf will curve and the harder you'll have to push and pull. Let the blade do the work and you'll be through that trunk in no time.

—THE EDITORS

23
tips, tricks, and
news to
your home-
improvement
questions



PHOTOGRAPH BY TED MORRISON

THIS OLD HOUSE: JAMES HAMILTON FOR PBS; DOWNTON ABBEY: PBS

Quarant
of veterans
experts



TOM SILVA
General Contractor



NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating
Expert



ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Electrician

My bathtub is draining slowly, and I'm pretty sure the cause is a hair clog. How should I take care of this problem?

—GRIFFINAMAD EAGAN WINN



To clear a clogged bathtub drain, Richard Trethewey feeds a plumbing snake through the tub's overflow.

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES: Most likely, your clog is in the p-trap, a curved section of the tub's drain pipe just below the floor. The tool of choice to snaking it is a plumbing snake, a flexible length of tightly coiled wire with a wire snout, known as a boring snake, at the business end. You insert the snake through the tub overflow, giving you a straight shot to the trap.

First unscrew the overflow cover and remove it along with the stopper assembly. Feed the snake down the overflow until you feel some resistance—you've reached the trap. Turn the handle clockwise as you push the snake 6 to 8 inches further, through the clog. Now, without opening it, slowly pull the snake back up. With any luck, you'll retrieve a wad of wet gunk, and that will be the end of your slow drain. Even if you get nothing, there's a good chance that you've pushed the clog through and cleared the trap.

Run some water to see if it drains. Just to be sure, attach the snake into the trap and jam it up and down as you flush water through the drain. Remove the snake, replace the stopper assembly, and reattach the overflow cover. Then consider placing a strainer over the drain to catch hair before it reaches the trap. To see a video of the



What
is it?

1
Drainpipe
reamer

2
Paint
maker

3
Compost
claimer

4
Bucket
scrubber

FOR THE ANSWER SEE PAGE 55

steps I go through to snake a tub, go to thisoldhouse.com/a01015

Radiant-floor fix

The heated electric floor in our tiled kitchen no longer works. Is there a way to locate a break in that kind of wiring so it can be repaired?

—JESS BUNCO, WADE MAE

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES: Have you asked an electrician to make sure there's no other problem with your floor-heating system? If so, master electrician Scott Caron, owner of Caron Electric and a regular guest on *Ask This Old House* TV, says it is possible—but not easy—to find a break in hidden wires and repair it.

The trick is to use a device called a tone generator and probe. The generator clips to the wire you want to trace. The probe emits a ringing tone when it's directly over a heated but unbroken wire; then goes quiet where there's a break. "You can buy one at a home center for about \$40," Caron says. You'll also need to get a wire-speaking kit from the company that made your system. "Look for the manufacturer's name on the documentation," Caron says.

Clip the generator to one of the floor-heating wires in the junction box, where

the heating system connects to the house wiring. Then use the probe to trace that wire across the back and forth under the tile. Places on the wall where the wire would likely have been cut and, Caron says, "with a little luck and a lot of patience, you should be able to find the break."

Now carefully dig out the tile, without damaging any more wires. (Find the how-to for removing a tile at thisoldhouse.com/a01013.) After you open the faulty wire, but before you lay a new tile, turn on the floor heat. If it works, congratulations! If not, you'll need to hunt down another break.

Leave bath or lose it?

After gutting the bathroom plaster, our contractor removed the wood lath on the exterior walls as well as to insulate them. Should the lath also be removed from the ceiling before installing drywall?

—TIMOTHY REYNOLDS, W.I.

TOM SILVA REPLIES: Just leave it. Lath actually stiffens the joints a bit, and there's no reason to add more debris to the landfill. As long as the drywall is fastened to the joists—not the lath—using screws that are 1/8 inch longer than the gaps for the walls, your new ceiling will be fine.

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PROJECT OF THE WEEK

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A freestanding, mortared fieldstone wall blends strength with the natural look of a dry stack. To preserve the dry-laid look, set the stones in a mortar that's pigmented a dark gray, then color the joints clean. Freestanding walls, need a stable, frost-proof footing to prevent shifting, and that requires a lot of digging in cold climates. So be sure to grab a few buddies to give you a hand.

You'll find all the tools and supplies necessary for this—and any—home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For step-by-step instructions, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

Insulation for a brick home

The plaster walls of my 1930s Tudor-style brick house get really cold at the winter, but I've been worried about insulating them because we have some old knobs and tube wiring. Any suggestions on how to make my home warmer this winter?

—EVELYN POTTS CHENNAI

TOM SILVER REPLIES: If that old wiring is still in use, then you're correct. Adding insulation would be a fair hazard. Knob-and-tube wiring has no jacket over the wires like modern cables do, so the bare wires were installed about 6 inches apart to prevent arcing and dissipate heat. If you packed insulation around those wires, they would get too hot.

Replacing the old wiring with new cables would not be difficult, but insulating the walls would be. And that insulation could actually make the brick more vulnerable to freeze-thaw cycles by reducing heat flow through the walls.

The best way to stay warm in the winter—and cooler in the summer—is to upgrade the insulation in your attic. A better layer means an air leak through that space, and increasing its R-value will be easier and more

cost-effective than insulating the walls.

In your climate, the code calls for attic to be insulated to a minimum R-value of 38. (For a list of insulation requirements by state, go to energycode.gov.) A contractor who specializes in energy retrofits can determine whether your attic meets that standard and, if not, how much extra insulation it should have. He or she can also see if the attic has any old wiring that needs to be replaced. If more insulation is called for, make sure the contractor seals any air leaks into the attic at the same time.

After the attic is taken care of, focus next on the basement, on the sill where the house sits on the foundation. Hiring a contractor to seal that perimeter with a closed-cell spray foam will go a long way toward keeping cold air out.

Once those two critical areas are insulated properly, you'll probably find that your home is comfortable enough—and your heating and cooling bills low enough—to make wall insulation unnecessary.

What to do with tree-trunk holes

I have a maple tree with a hole in the trunk where a limb was removed.



There is some decay in the hole. Is there anything I can do to stop the rot?

—WILLIAM ELLINGTON WAKEFORD, VA

Holes often occur in tree trunks because branches were removed improperly. To see the correct way to trim limbs go to thisoldhouse.com/woodcarts.

ROGER COOK REPLIES: The only way to stop rot is to prevent water from getting into the hole, either by

capping it with metal or plugging it with epoxy foam. If the rot isn't too advanced, the case may have a chance of interesting.

Before you do anything, call an arborist to make an assessment. He or she can evaluate the tree's overall health, see how much damage has occurred, and determine whether cables are needed to stabilize limbs.

If you decide to cap the hole, start by scraping out as much of the rot, rotting wood as you can. Then cover the hole with a piece of aluminum sheet metal, which won't rot. Cut it so that it overlaps the edges of the hole by a half inch or so, then fasten the metal on a flat head of aluminum rod and tack it in place with a few 1/4-inch stainless-steel siding nails. You can paint the patch to blend

in with the rest of the trunk.

If you seal the hole with foam, remove the rotted wood first, then use a canned spray that's formulated to fill big gaps. Once it hardens, trim the excess so that it will shed water. And be sure to paint the plug, because breaks down unprotected foam. ■

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

Go to thisoldhouse.com/asktoh

Or write to Ask This Old House
This Old House Magazine
135 West 58th Street
New York, NY 10019

Includes a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be asked for clarity and length and may be edited for clarity. We cannot be held responsible for the volume of mail received. We reserve the right to publish questions.

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

Activity 10 *How the Internet Works: 45 min to 1 hour*

HCM SOLUTIONS (pp. 27-28) Budget tools
www.mhfi.com & www.mhfi.com/modernize.com

[illegible]

REPAIRS • AFTER BATH Whodunnit covered (pp. 31–32) Shower enclosure installation and window con. Paid: 2008 National State (quest) and Interstate City Group, comprehensive con. 1000-5000000 Mercury Club, dinner and radiator. Delco con. Showerhead and fittings, sink, faucet, window bank, Energy Connection. delcoauto.com. Tantal: emmawoodrider.com. Repair shades: Delco Light Interiors Design: 203-249-7023. Perfetto: kismet.com. Dresser: paid 500 Ross Chisum T. Investments and L. Ann. radium.com. Dresser: shanel, catmadedesigns.com

REDFIRE + AFTER OFFICE, streamlined up (p. 26-27) Designer: Rachel Bauer rchelleb@redfire.com Photo: 2023-2024 Caroline Tait Outdoors and Woodstock, hollyhedges.com

GET THE LOOK. Warm winter entry (p. 38-39) **Wendy** on door Magnolia leaf wreath, entry.com/wendyloveyou. Good fabric on wendy.miam.com

DESIGN INSIDER: The case for needy artists (p. 47-48) Designer Erika's Notebook erickadecor.com

PHOTOSHOP REED Updating a blind monk.
(p. 44) Thanks to Matthew Davis
www.mattsdavis.com

VIEWING & RE-MODEL How to build a kids bookcase (pp. 45-49) All materials and finishes. homedepot.com

CRAFTSMAN-STYLE CHAIRS (pp. 58-62)
Cabinetry and countertops (www.cabinetry.com)
Fixity Tools Loveland, Barnhart, work co.
Chairs and stools (www.stewart.com)
Antique coffee table (www.100years.com)

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BID TO FORM (pt. 6) General contractor and architectural designer Aris Church Architects 4 cm Interior designer Hudd Hendrick Inc hndhendrick.com Floor reflecting floorwood.com Light fixtures pendant lighting.com Chandeliers and rugs vanderweil.com Upcycling waterfordconsort.com Windows, et al styling/wallcoveringsnoble Rejuvenation kitchen appliances.com Range outdoors work.com Wood floors kensouth.com Art OneTwoThree - glassandwireform.com

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE (pg. 95-98 Q+A)
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doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0194000.g002

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U.S. Army Sergeant First Class (E7) Joseph Jacob, with
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 Rachel) at their new home dedication in Hendersonville.
 Submitted on Friday, September 14, 2012



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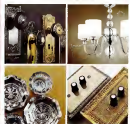
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THE HISTORY In the late 1800s, what is now the Essex Park area of Springfield was noted for its grand homes, owned by local captains of industry. It was wonder—just down the road, you could see the Italianate mansion where Mary Todd lived, with her sister Elizabeth, while she was being courted by her future husband, Abraham Lincoln. And around the corner? The site where Lincoln announced his unsuccessful 1858 run for the U.S. Senate. So by 1896, when George Elkins moved into this newly built Queen Anne, the area was full of trade and political significance. The house has since seen many owners and a few fires, but has been empty since 2003, when a local artist purchased the property to save it.

WHY SAVE IT? The plain-faced exterior hides an interior filled with elaborate features typical of the Queen Anne style. Granite touches include leaded-glass windows, original wood floors framed with arched borders, and fluted columns topped with decorative corner blocks.

WHAT IT NEEDS First, the house must be moved—but the neighborhood association has secured a nearby lot, so you won't have to worry about purchasing one. The front porch and the stairway leading will need to go, per association requirements, you'll have to replace them with something more period-appropriate. Plumbing and electrical need some updates, and the kitchen requires a refrainer too. But overall, the home's in good shape—and just waiting for someone to bring its grand old details back to life. —NICHOLE SUESS



1. The 2,600-square-foot house includes four bedrooms and three baths.
2. The leaded-glass on the front stairs evokes a large, ornate metal post carved with an acorn motif.
3. Many of the original rooms remain, including this full pocket set leading to the front porch.
4. The foyer is topped with an arched border on the wood floor, plus classical style fluted columns that curve to fit the wall.



GO T A HOUSE?

If you know of an old house that needs the love and tender care, write to: house@monrovia.com or "The Old House," 138 West 109th Street, Astor, NY 10003.

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